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THE QUEEN, THE Preſent Miniſtry, LEWIS XIV. AND PHILIP V. Unanſwerably Vindicated,

With reſpect to his *Catholick* Majeſty's Poſſeſſion of *Spain* and the *Indies* confirm'd to him in the Treaty of Peace now on Foot.

In a LETTER to a Noble Lord, concerning a ſcandalous Libel, entitled, The Groans of Europe, *&c.*

To which is prefix'd,

A PREFACE relating ſome Matters of Fact, which may tend farther to open the Eyes of Her Majeſty's Deluded Subjects.

Nemo poteſt ad alium transferre plus juris, quam ipſe habet.

The Second EDITION.

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PREFACE.

HAVING *read, ſome time ago, in the* Amſterdam Gazette, *done by* Du Breüil, *a Paragraph from* London, *intimating, That a* French *Book, lately printed in* Holland, *under the Title of* Les Soupirs de l'Europe, *&c. made a great Noiſe in* England, *and was tranſlating into our Tongue; I waited with Impatience the Edition of that doughty Piece. Nor was it out two Days, before I receiv'd Information, That it was tranſlated by* Du Boyer; *and, That the* Faction, *for whoſe Cauſe it was publiſh'd, had bought up Fifteen Hundred Copies the firſt Day, boaſting its Author's Unanſwerable Learning and Argumentation.*

Now, as the Correſpondence between thoſe French Hugonots, *viz.* Du Breüil *at* Amſterdam, *and* Du Boyer *in ſome Garret in or near the City of* London, *is no Secret; it ſeems to me an eaſy Matter to gueſs at its Uſefulneſs. The Former writes the* Amſterdam Gazette; *the Latter* The Political State of Great Britain, *and* Annals of the QUEEN's Reign. *Suppoſing, therefore,* Du Boyer *is diſpleas'd with any Proceedings of* HER MAJESTY, *or thoſe who are put in Authority under* HER; *he has Nothing to do, but to commit his own Reflexions thereupon to Writing, and deliver them in at the Foreign Poſt-Office:* Du Breüil

ſoon inſerts them in his Gazette, *and then* Du Boyer *and the reſt of 'em will give you a* fair Tranſlation, *in ſpite of your Teeth. And indeed, it were to be wiſh'd,* Du Boyer *had been the only Perſon vers'd in this kind of* Menage: *But I have ſeen the* QUEEN, *the Miniſtry, and the Parliament inſulted even in the Middle of their Seſſion, with an* Effronterie *unheard-of till within theſe two or three Years.* Letters, *and* Memorials, *and* Prefaces, *and a thouſand other falſe and ſcandalous Stories, have been induſtriouſly ſpread, and audaciouſly avow'd, to incenſe the* Mobb *againſt the Beſt of* QUEENS, *and Beſt of* PATRIOTS: *And as, by the Style, and Manner, and Matter of theſe Libels, it appears to every Common Reader, they owe their Birth to an* Engliſh Faction; *ſo we find, that certain Miſcreants, who injuriouſly call themſelves* Engliſhmen, *are never wanting to become their Foſter-fathers, and to introduce them in an* Engliſh *Dreſs, under the Colour of a* fair Tranſlation. *A Practice tolerated in no Government in the World, beſides the* Engliſh.

'Twas the Notion of this Dutch *Correſpondence, that at firſt induced me to believe,* The Groans of Europe *proceeded* originally *from the* Tender *Breaſt of that celebrated Refugee from Religion,* Du Boyer. *But upon peruſing the Book, I found, that tho' it had no Foundation of Argument, it yet contain'd ſome Things high above the Reach of my ſuppoſed Author. Neither, as I deſire to do every Man Juſtice, would I rob his Fellow-Labourer, that Renowned Arch-Enemy to* GOD, *His* VICEGERENTS, *and* AMBASSADORS, John Toland, *of the Honour which may accrue to him from that Elaborate Work. At the ſame*

time

time, I muſt not omit to recommend to my Gentle Readers, Du Boyer's Political *Fragments, his* Annals, *and particularly the* Dedications *of his Two Years laſt publiſh'd, for a Specimen of his Parts and Principles, if it can avail them any thing to ſee it.*

I know not how 'tis, but having ſet off my Preface *with the Names of ſuch Authors, I am forc'd, by a neceſſary Induction, to make due Mention of* Tol. nd's *Senior in Impiety, the old* Cameronian *Hypocrite* R. dp. th, *who is once more fully bent upon the Martyrdom of a* Pillory, *for inventing and publiſhing more Scandal* every Week *in his* ſ. Lying-P. ſt, *than, with Deference to my L.C.J.'s Opinion, can be raked out of* any Three Years *of* Abel Roper's Poſt-Boys. *I will allow Something to be due alſo to his Ingenious Aſſiſtant* Bob Huſh, *who happening to be expell'd the H..ſe of C.mm.ns for* Notorious Bribery and Corruption, *has the Happineſs to be employ'd in the* Glorious *Undertaking of* Libelling the Government; *tho' I cannot remember, that Mr.* Cæſar, *formerly ſent to the* Tower, *for ſpeaking a* Notorious Truth *of the late Lord Tr.....r, had ever any Preferment of this kind conferr'd upon Him.*

Here I cannot enough commend the generous Endeavours of a Knot *of otherwiſe Obſcure Citizens ty'd faſt together in the Band of* Whiggiſh *Amity by the Bullying Maggot-monger and ſelf-conceited Politician* H.lſ.y, *the Diſappointed Courtier* P.ch:y, *and the Noiſy Stockjobbing* B.dc.ck; *who finding themſelves utterly unable to produce any thing in Print, out of their own Fund of* Natural Wit, *have, by contributing a few Guineas, meerly* forc'd up *a Puny Author of the ſame Side, who, after having run himſelf*

out

out of Breath with Billingſgate *Raillery, tacks a few of* De Foe's Reviews *to his Performance, and calls it a* Hiſtory of the Jacobite Clubs, Price Six-Pence. *How well this Piece has ſucceeded, very few know; but moſt of thoſe few ſay* too many, *and alledge, their Money was thrown away.*

I hope, the Liberties *ſecured to Us* Engliſhmen, *by the late* Happy Revolution, *will bear me out in doing Juſtice to ſome* Deadly *Advocates for* Religion, *as well as to thoſe for* Property. *I could run you over now a whole Alphabet of ſuch, as* Cleveland *had formerly Regard to, when he made this lamentable Complaint:*

Unhappy Church! the Vipers that do ſhare
Thy greateſt Honours, help to make thee bare
And void of all thy Dignities and Stores!
Alas! Thine own Sons prove the Foreſt Boars!

But I have too much Veneration for their Order, to multiply on this Occaſion. Suffice it to inſtance in S. Aſaph, Baker, Barton, Boulter, Bradford, Clarke, Hoadly, Kennet, Sarum, Weſt, *and the Ingenious and Modeſt* Canon-maker Whiſton, Arabick *Profeſſor at his Houſe in* Hatton-Garden; *whoſe Eſcape from the Upper Houſe of Convocation, tho' ſo great a Myſtery to moſt of the Inferiour Clergy, I do aſſure you, is none at all either to his Aſſociate* Emlin, *or to me; or, in general, to any who were oblig'd with the Peruſal of* Whiſton's *Original Copy of his* Hiſtorical Preface.

Theſe, and ſuch as theſe, are the Men, of whom I would adviſe all true Engliſhmen, *as they*

they value the CHURCH, *the* QUEEN, *or the* CONSTITUTION, *to beware; for, as their Champion* De Foe *avows, they ſupport their Cauſe by Lyes and Falſhood. I would likewiſe caution them againſt all thoſe in general, who have ſo accuſtom'd themſelves to the Cant-Words of* Revolution, Liberty, Property, Pretender, Popery, Slavery, Arbitrary Power, *&c. that they can ſcarce ſay any thing elſe; becauſe it is notorious, That as theſe Men are ready, upon all Occaſions, to turn their* Liberty *into* Licentiouſneſs, *their* Religion *into* Rebellion, *and their* Faith *into* Faction; *ſo they give what Senſe they pleaſe to the abovemention'd Terms, about which they make ſuch a Pother. How, for Inſtance, do they found the* Revolution, *but upon* Rebellion? Liberty, *with them, is appropriated to themſelves; and tho' 'tis* Arbitrary Power, Tyranny, *and* What not? *in a* King of England *to diveſt a Corporation of its Charter; a* Whig Miniſtry *may very juſtifiably impoſe or take away ſuch Things where they think fit; a* Whig Lord-Mayor *may make what Alderman he pleaſes, in Violation of the Laws and Privileges of the City; and finally, a Mercenary* Whig Conſtable *ſhall be abetted in running Perſons of Worth and Reputation into a nauſeous Priſon at Noon-day, in order to be ſent for Soldiers, contrary to Law.*

This, O my Countrymen! is what Many of you have found, by ſad Experience, to be the Meaning of Liberty *and* Property, *in the Hands of the* Whigs. *And 'tis much after the ſame Manner they proceed in all other Caſes. How do they ſhew their Affection for the* QUEEN, *otherwiſe*

than

than by most inhumanely reviling Her Royal Father, Uncle, *&c.? And can they better manifest their Submission to those true* PATRIOTS *now in Authority, than by employing* Ruffians *to assassinate them? or by spiriting a* Mohun *and a* Macartney *to cut their Throats, or a* Lambeth-eying *Bishop to make* I know not what------ *of them? And yet, methinks the great Duty of Self-Preservation is too much neglected! Marlborough has Leave to travel, as if Shaftsbury's Plotting of old was effaced out of Memory, or there had never been such Names as* Gregg *and* Valiere *in the World.*

One Word concerning the following Pages, and I have done. I will be bold to say, there never was more Argument written in a smaller Compass, than this is. It proves incontestably King Philip's *Right to the Crown of* Spain, *which tho' it has been all along evident, was nevertheless constantly deny'd by the* Whigs. *Allowing Four Things to give Right to Princes, viz. Blood, Possession, Consent of the People, and Conquest; does it not then appear, that the Emperor has no Pretension, but the last? After this, 'tis an amazing thing, that any* Englishman *should be so obstinately blind, as to insist upon his Country's supporting that hopeless Claim; but such as we have been describing, are Men who* delight in War, *and, therefore, are for him who will carry That on* longest; *as appears from their present Usage of the* Dutch, *whom they begin to load with opprobrious Names, for leaving his Imperial Majesty in the Lurch.*

THE

THE QUEEN, THE *Preſent Miniſtry*, &c. VINDICATED.

'TIS your Opinion, my Lord, That all Groans are reſerv'd for the Paſſion of Love; and, That the Fair Sex alone have a Right to demand them: But I have ſent you a new Book, which will teach you, That *Europe* groans after other Objects. I leave it to you, my Lord, to judge, whether the Author has any good Ground to make the fineſt Quarter of the World act the Perſon of *Heraclitus*; but be ſure, don't laugh while Others are under Affliction; ſince 'twou'd be Breach of Charity not to follow St. *Paul*'s Command, namely, to *weep with thoſe that weep*.

The Object which excites the Groans of *Europe*, is the Queen of *England*'s Speech to Her Parliament concerning the Project of a General

Peace. You will be surpriz'd, my Lord, that *Europe* is made to groan, upon the View of a Plan of Peace, at a time when the People every where concur, by their Vows, to obtain of Heaven that which makes the Happiness of all the World.

The Queen of *Great-Britain* being more sensibly touch'd with the real Calamities of *Europe*, than with its pretended Groans; and Her Eyes being open'd with respect to the Motives which put *Christendom* in a Flame; She found that the ambitious Designs of Two Powers bred that Combustion, *viz.* those of the House of *Austria* on one Side, and those of the *States-General* of the *United-Provinces* on the other.

Such was the Artifice of those Two Powers, that they gain'd the Secret of arming, in their Quarrel, half the Princes of *Europe*, to baffle the Chimerical Project of Universal Monarchy, which they charg'd upon *France*, while, 'tis plain both from their Publick and Private Treaties, their only Drift was, to aggrandize themselves at the Expence of the other Princes in Alliance with them.

Many Years elaps'd, before the Veil, which cover'd this Artifice, was taken off. Two great Captains held the two Ends on't, and took Care to hinder the Power which contributed most to the Support of the War, and receiv'd least Advantage by it, from prying into the Mystery of the Emperor and the *Dutch*.

'Tis no new Thing to see the House of *Austria* intent upon her Grandeur; but it is, to see the Principal Members of the *Germanick* Body labour for their own Destruction, by contributing towards the Success of Her ambitious Projects. Had not their Hatred of *France* hoodwink'd most of

of the Princes of the Empire, there's not one but would consider what it has cost him, since, by an uninterrupted Succession, the *Imperial* Dignity has been conferr'd upon one Family only.

Italy, formerly so studious to keep the Emperors at a Distance from her Neighbourhood, has lately experienc'd, through her own Indolence, what she has, one Day, to fear; since the Emperor, from the Time he first enter'd that Country, has made all the Princes thereof groan in good earnest, by exacting immense Sums from them; and forced Torrents of Tears from the Eyes of all the People where-ever his Troops have come, sparing neither Things Sacred nor Prophane.

The *Dutch* have no less manifested their Ambition, tho' they have carry'd it after a more sly and covert Manner. Every one knows, That since the Establishment of their Sovereignty, by the Assistance of Queen *Elizabeth*, and *Henry* IV. *Lewis* XIII. and *Lewis* XIV. Kings of *France*, there's not a Quarter of the World, which they have not visited, in order to lay a Foundation for their Government, under Pretence of Commerce; and that too, at the Expence of those, who are even now their greatest Friends and dearest Allies.

While *Spain* was in a manner in Combustion under the Reign of *Charles* II. the *Dutch* took Advantage of that State of Impotency to augment their Barrier, and to reap some Profit from the Commerce of the *West-Indies*. From that time, there has appear'd no Treaty, either of Commerce, or of War, but the *States-General* have slid into it some new Clauses to their Advantage; and 'tis their dangerous Politicks that are now lately seen through, and this kind of Management, which have induced

the Queen of *England*, and the New Miniſtry, to open their Eyes with regard to the true Intereſts of their Nation, and, with greater Wiſdom than thoſe who govern *Holland*, to liſten to the Propoſals of the *French* King, though much inferiour to thoſe which that Prince made at the *Hague* in 1709, and at *Gertruydenberg* in 1710.

Your Lordſhip muſt not imagine, That, agreeably to what the *Dutch* gave out, it was the Intereſt of their Allies, which then made them ſo difficult. *England* has diſcover'd, notwithſtanding all their Precautions, That they were animated by a Private Intereſt, ſupported by the Two Generals who commanded their Armies, and who found Means, by continuing the War, to make themſelves neceſſary, to enrich themſelves, and to govern.

The Queen has expos'd that Myſtery of Iniquity, by diſplacing the Duke of *Marlborough*, and all his Family, to the great Surprize of the *Dutch* and the Whigs, who could not, with all their Efforts, hinder the Parliament from proceeding againſt that fortunate Commander, for the Sums he had appropriated to himſelf.

The Emperor would ſoon be appriz'd of the Intentions of the *States General*, if he himſelf were to enter into a particular Examen of this War. His *Imperial* Majeſty would find, That the Syſtem of the Grand Alliance was, to engage his Houſe in ſuch great Enterprizes, to the end that after the Peace, remaining Titular Prince of the *Netherlands*, and not being able to reimburſe the Sums advanc'd by *Holland*, he muſt, by way of Pledge, leave in the Hands of that Republick the beſt Places of thoſe Provinces, which ſo would undergo the Fate of

Maeſtricht,

Maestricht, and being made Part of the Barrier demanded of *France*, must consequently render the *Dutch* Sovereigns of the Seventeen Provinces. Add to this, That if the Emperor were to be Master of *Spain* and the *Indies*, that Prince not being in a Condition to traffick by Sea, he would be oblig'd to have Recourse to them, and by that Means would exclude all other Nations from the Commerce of *America*.

This, my Lord, is the Discovery which the Queen of *England* and Her New Ministry have made, and which is to the *Dutch* a real Occasion of Groaning. It is hard indeed to see themselves frustrated of so many Advantages by a Plan of Peace, when they thought to obtain them by the Continuation of the War. No wonder, therefore, they have kept up so good a Harmony with the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene*, and set so many different Engines at work, to baffle the Queen's Projects; and that they promis'd themselves such great Matters from the Junto of Whigs.

The Author of the Book of *the Groans of* Europe had spoken much more justly, if he had entitled his Work, *The Groans* of *Holland*, *upon Comparing the Negotiations at* Utrecht *with those at the* Hague *and* Gertruydenberg, *and Reflecting upon the dismal Consequences of the Victory of* Denain, *the Taking of* Marchiennes *the Magazine of their whole Campagne, the Raising the Siege of* Landrecy, *the Conquest of* Douay, *that of* Quenoy, *the Disappointment of all their big Hopes, and their Insecurity in the midst of their own Dominions*; They! who but two Months before boasted they would put *Paris* under Contribution, and winter their Troops in the Heart of *France*! How ought this Reverse, wrought by the Finger of God, to humble them, and make

them

them *groan!* You will forgive me, My Lord, if I don't write you a formal Refutation of *the Groans of Europe*, whose whole Fabrick is erected upon the Renunciation of *Maria-Thereſa* of *Auſtria* to the Crown of *Spain*, which is a Plea produced in Court after Verdict is given.

The Affair is decided! — *Philip* V. ſhall remain upon the Throne of *Spain*; *England* acknowledges him; and the Emperor ought to be very well ſatisfy'd with the fine Partition that is yielded to him, ſince 'tis to the Longeſt Sword, not to Juſtice, that the moſt valuable Territories in *Italy* are granted.

Would the Emperor's Council but reflect without Paſſion upon the Queen of *England*'s Scheme, they muſt acknowledge, That that Princeſs gives his Imperial Majeſty a Satisfaction, which in Fact is not his Due; ſince, by the Treaty of Alliance, he is excluded from all the Territories of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, in caſe he ſhould come to the Empire. Now this Caſe has happen'd, and yet he is the Firſt that crys out, and exclaims againſt the Queen's Conduct.

'Tis *Europe*'s Misfortune, that Princeſs was not ſooner inform'd of the Intentions of the *Dutch*; She would then have ſav'd all the Blood that has been ſpilt theſe three laſt Years, by taking juſt Meaſures to put an end, by a ſpeedy Peace, to a War that has made *Europe* groan for theſe dozen Years.

Thoſe who read the Queen's Speech to Her Parliament, without Prejudice, will be ſurpriz'd at the wicked Turn which the Allies give it, but more at the Endeavours of the Author of the *Groans*, to perſuade the Publick, That the Allies never had the leaſt Intimation of the Queen's Deſigns, with relation to a General Peace.

That

That Author has forgot, how the Book of *The Conduct of the Allies* has bely'd his Diſcourſe, ſince for this Twelve-month paſt they have not ceas'd to ſet their Emiſſaries at work in *England*. If it be true, what that Author advances, That they were ignorant of the Queen's Deſigns, Why ſuch Debating in the Two Houſes of Parliament? Why ſo many Struggles to ſupport the Whigs, in Oppoſition to the Court and New Miniſtry? Why was Count *Gallas* obliged to leave *England*, for ſpeaking with too little Moderation againſt the Project of Peace? Why, to conclude, was a new Way of Negotiating at *Utrecht* invented, and the Regulating of the Conferences there, according to thoſe of *Nimeguen* and *Ryſwick*, obſtinately refus'd?

If, after all theſe fruitleſs Attempts, they will plead Ignorance of a Fact made Publick by ſolemn Communications, they muſt take the whole World for a Pack of Fools. Let them ſay they don't like it, and welcome; but 'tis a Shame to affirm they did not know it.

Agreeable to the Principles of the Emperor and the *Dutch*, the Right to Crowns does not go by Proximity of Blood, or the moſt Authentick Titles; but only according to what beſt ſuits the Intereſt of the Court of *Vienna*, and the *States-General*. To fear the Aggrandizement of any Power, is enough for them to arm all *Europe* againſt a Prince declar'd by Nature, and eſtabliſh'd by Providence, to be Heir to his Anceſtors.

The Houſe of *Auſtria* is happy, that this Maxim which ſhe pleads now, was unknown Two Hundred Years ago; for had it been never ſo little practis'd then, ſhe had never united to the Empire the Kingdoms of *Bohemia* and *Hungary*, which have

have render'd her ſo formidable; and all *Europe* would have excluded *Charles* V. from the Throne of *Spain*, only *Europe* at that time of day knew not what it was to *groan!*

Such Maxims may be receiv'd among Barbarians, who had no other Law but their Caprice; but to introduce 'em among Chriſtians, is to authorize the moſt unjuſt Wars.

And yet this is the Foundation upon which thoſe in *Holland* build the honeſt Deſire of never laying down their Arms, till they have done Things impoſſible.

In a Regular Court of Juſtice, where Equity, not Violence decides, 'twou'd be an eaſy Matter to prove, That the Crown of *Spain* does lawfully belong to *Philip* V. and to a prudent People, govern'd not by Paſſion, but by Reaſon, 'twou'd be as eaſy to demonſtrate, That it cannot be ſnatch'd away from him. The firſt appears, in that his Right is eſtabliſh'd by the Law of Nature, that of the Land, by Cuſtom, and the Will of *Charles* II. confirm'd by the Joint Suffrages of all the States of the Monarchy, whoſe Buſineſs it is, according to the Author of the *Groans*, to confirm, or diſannull all Diſpoſitions made by the Kings of *Spain*. The Emperor has nothing to plead in Bar of theſe ſtrong Titles, but the Renunciation of *Maria-Thereſa* of *Auſtria*, eldeſt Daughter of *Philip* IV. the Nullity of which Act has long ſince been made appear, ſo that we need only refer any one, who has an Inclination to make himſelf Maſter of this Argument, to the printed Books. For my part, I ſhall ſay but one Word, but that one Word pretty peremptory, to wit, That the very Arguments made uſe of by the Author of the *Groans*, ſhall ſuffice me to prove,

That

That if the Renunciation of *Maria-Thereſa* of *Auſtria* is valid, then the Will of *Charles* II. is alſo valid; and if the Will is null, the Renunciation muſt be more null; and, conſequently, the Law of Nature, the Right of Blood, being on King *Philip*'s Side, the Crown of *Spain* does undoubtedly belong to him; and ſo, the War carry'd on againſt him is unjuſt.

For if, according to the Remarks of the Author of the *Groans*, pagg. 59 and 60. the Kings of *Spain*, not enjoying the Kingdom *ex dominio*, cannot ſell, give away, or alienate their Subjects like a Flock of Sheep; it follows, That the Kings of *Spain* are leſs able to oblige their Children to ſell, yield, or make any Alienation whatſoever, of the Natural Rights they have to the Crown.

That Author produces ſeveral Inſtances, which prove, That all ſuch Acts as have not been approv'd by the States of the Kingdom, are of none Effect.

Now, the Emperor cannot deny, (for all *Europe* knows it) but that *Charles* II's Will was approv'd by all the States of the Kingdom of *Spain*, who, immediately upon the Death of that Prince, ſent a ſolemn Deputation into *France*, to deſire the King to grant the Duke of *Anjou* to *Spain*, purſuant to the laſt Will of *Charles* II.

The Emperor muſt, moreover, acknowledge, That with all the Forces of the Allies, and all the good Succeſs imaginable, he could never make that People own him for King, tho' he was twice Maſter of *Madrid*.

I would fain, therefore, have the Author of the *Groans* tell us, what Title one muſt have, to be Lawful King of *Spain*. Is it the Law of the Land? That is for us. Is it Cuſtom?

That is for us. Is it a Will? We have that. Is it the Acclamation of the People? I dare ſay, No-body but *Philip* V. will boaſt of that: It was univerſal upon his Acceſſion; it laſted three Years without the leaſt Contradiction; and it was purely owing to Intrigue, that ſome few of his Subjects were afterwards debauch'd to incur the Guilt of Manifeſt Rebellion, by violating their former Oaths.

But why does not our Author, in his profound Erudition, and in the Collection of Pieces he has made, ſay one Word of the famous Wills of *Charles* V. and *Philip* II.? The Reaſon is, becauſe they make directly againſt him, and he is not paid for ſpeaking the Truth, which is contrary to the Intent of thoſe who ſet him to work. Now you muſt know, thoſe two Wills contain a gradual and perpetual Subſtitution of the Crown of *Spain*, preferring the Males before the Females, and the Elder Daughters before the Younger, in all their Poſterity. I affirm, therefore, That either the Crown of *Spain* ought to be regulated according to the Diſpoſals of her Kings, or it cannot be ſettled by Right of Blood; in a word, either that Crown is Alienable, or it is not. If it is Alienable, the Subſtitution being made by the Ancient Kings of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, their Deſcendents could not change it; and conſequently, neither poſteriour Wills, nor Renunciations, nor any other Diſpoſal whatſoever, can prejudice it. Our Author is too well ſkill'd in the Law, to be ignorant of its firſt Rudiments. If the Crown is not Alienable, the Wills of *Charles* V. and *Philip* II. and, if you pleaſe, you may add that of *Charles* II. ſignify'd nothing; for they ſay nothing but what the Law

ſaid

ſaid before: But the Wills of *Philip* III. and *Philip* IV. being contrary to Law, are null to all Intents and Purpoſes, and the Renunciations of *Anne* and *Maria-Thereſa*, being contrary to Law, are alſo void to all Intents and Purpoſes; and conſequently, the Wills of the three Monarchs by which *Philip* V. is call'd to the Crown, are no farther to be accounted valid, than as they are agreeable to the Fundamental Laws of the Kingdom; whence it follows, That if *Philip* IV. and *Maria-Thereſa*, his Daughter, had any kind of Power to exclude ſome of his Deſcendents, contrary to all Juſtice; *Charles* II. had as good, to reſtore them in the Order of Juſtice itſelf; if the Father had Power to do an Injury, the Son might much more juſtly repair it. And indeed, this is the very Point which renders *Charles*'s Diſpoſal legitimate and fair, in that it reſtored Things to their natural Condition, and gave us to underſtand how far Renunciations are valid, to wit, in the Caſe of Incompatibility of Two Crowns; and how far they are not, *viz.* to exclude the Sole and True Heir.

Thus *Philip* V. does not come to the Crown in Right of his Grandmother, nor in Right of his Great-Grandfather by the Mother's Side; but in Right of himſelf. He does not repreſent them, that he ſhould be bound by their Deeds; but is call'd by the Laws, by Blood, and by Nature. *Charles* II. did not properly appoint him, but only pitch'd upon him among his true Succeſſors, becauſe the others were deſign'd to wear the Crown of *France*, and it beſt ſuited the Intereſt of the Two Kingdoms, to have two different Kings.

Thus much for Reaſons, which I defy the Author in queſtion to anſwer, otherwiſe than by *Groans*. But there is one Thing very curious in his Book; and that is, that after he has laid down Principles, he denies all the Conſequences. Perſonal Diſpoſitions, according to him, are mere Ballads; but Renunciations are Fundamental Laws, as if Renunciations were not Perſonal Diſpoſitions.

I'd fain ask him, whether the *Cortes* in 1618, had better Authority to ſubvert the Ancient Laws, than the *Cortes* in 1709. had to maintain them? The Former excluded the Children of *Maria-Thereſa*; the Latter ſwore, that *Philip* V. and his Children are Rightful Kings. If the Former had Power to make a Law, certainly the Latter might make one too. What, therefore, is the Difference between 'em? Why, the pretended Law of 1618. was contrary to the Irrevocable Laws of the Monarchy; and that of 1709. was the Reſtoring and Confirming of them. Pray obſerve, by the by, how careful the *Auſtrian* Princes were, to make *Maria-Thereſa*, and the Archduchess Electreſs of *Bavaria*, (who might transfer the Right to *Spain* elſewhere) renounce, tho' thoſe Princeſſes who might carry it into the *German* Branch, never did ſo. Is it not plain, This was purely to fix that Patrimony in themſelves, notwithſtanding the Rules they had given them, acknowledging it Feminine for their Houſe, and Maſculine for all the World beſides? It was to do Violence to Nature, and force Providence; and therefore, you ſee, Providence laugh'd at 'em, and Nature has got the better. Nothing, after all, can be eſtabliſh'd upon a more ſolid Foundation, than *Philip* V's Right; and nothing can

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be worſe grounded, than the Emperor's Pretenſions. There now remains only to prove, That it would be the higheſt Degree of Chimerical Folly in the World, to perſiſt obſtinately to dethrone that Prince.

What has been left undone, to compaſs that End? How many Rivers of Blood ſpilt? What immenſe Treaſures laviſh'd, to gain that Point ſo much the Deſire of all the Confederate Powers? Can Men hope for greater Succeſſes than thoſe they have had, which avail'd 'em Nothing? As long as the *Spaniards* continue faithful, you might get 20 Battles of *Saragoſſa*, and 25 Times take *Madrid*, and yet be forc'd after all to retire in Confuſion.

The Allies were the ſame with reſpect to *Spain*, as the Chymiſts are about the Philoſophers Stone. They always thought to hold it faſt, and yet they always loſt it; becauſe, indeed, they wanted the Firſt Matter, the Hearts of the People. Is it juſt, therefore, to fall out with the Queen, becauſe ſhe was the firſt that diſcover'd the Impoſſibility of an Enterprize the Court of *Vienna* was pleas'd to put Her upon? Are not the moſt ſhort-liv'd Errors the beſt?

But then, ſays the Author of the *Groans*, you accuſe the Queen of flattering Herſelf without Foundation, when ſhe declar'd to Her Parliament, ſo many times over, That the War muſt be carry'd on, till the Houſe of *Auſtria* was put in Poſſeſſion of *Spain* and the *Indies*.

To this I anſwer, That we muſt diſtinguiſh, 1. While the Emperor *Joſeph* was yet alive, the two Branches of that Houſe might be look'd upon as ſeparate, in like manner as that of *Bourbon* now is; but ſince his Death without Male-Iſſue, All is united upon the ſame Head; and let our

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Author, with his ridiculous Calculations, ſay what he will, ſo great Power in the Hands of one Prince, at leaſt as proud and ambitious as any of his Predeceſſors, would be exorbitant. The Queen, therefore, has good Reaſon to have different Sentiments ſince *April* 1711. 2. Experience teaches us many Things: Could it be imagin'd, at firſt, That *Philip* V. was ſo belov'd of his Subjects, that he ſhould ever find in them Reſſources againſt the greateſt Rebuffs of Fortune? and, That his Rival ſhould never be leſs Maſter of *Spain*, than when in Poſſeſſion of its Capital? Such Events are ſo miraculous, that they could not be believ'd without Experiment; but to have two ſeveral Tryals, and not believe it, is an unpardonable Blindneſs in Men who ſit at the Helm of Governments. 3. The Queen was not yet ſenſible of the Breach of Faith of Her Allies. Certain Perſons abuſing the Confidence Her Majeſty fancy'd to be due to their Wit, and Parts, and Succeſſes, ſacrificed Her inſenſibly to the Court of *Vienna*, to *Holland*, and to their private Intereſts, by inducing Her to continue, under the Colour of a ſcrupulous Fidelity to Her Engagements, a War from which She alone was to reap no Advantage, tho' at the ſame time it ruin'd Her Subjects. 'Tis true, we read in *Æſop*'s Fables, That the Monkey made uſe of the Cat's Paw to rake the Cheſnuts out of the Fire; but we do not find, That when the Cat grew weary of her Complaiſance, the Monkey had the Impudence to cry out *Murder*, and to upbraid her with Breach of Faith.

We have but one Thing more to examine; namely, Whether *Europe* ought rather to groan upon the Making of a Peace according to the Queen's Plan, than upon the Proſpect of an everlaſting War, agreeable to the Schemes of the *Imperialiſts*

perialiſts and the *Dutch*. Not to inſiſt upon the Common-Place, which ſays, *A bad Peace is better than a good War*, let us ſee, with our Author, Whether the Peace now in Agitation, is not preferable to the War in Cogitation. If it is bad, the High Allies were in the wrong, when in the Year 1701. they made their Treaty of Grand Alliance; for by this Project of Peace, they have All they then deſired, and all the Advantages they propos'd to themſelves by taking up Arms. It is properly from that Treaty, that the Queen of *Great Britain* has drawn up the Articles of a General Satisfaction. If the Emperor and the *Dutch* have taken no Care of their Intereſts, at a time when Nothing hindred them from ſtipulating what they pleas'd, they can blame no body but themſelves: But, ſays our Author, their Stomach is ſince come to them, and they'll cry, if they are not humour'd; they thought to have ſwallow'd up one Crown, and to have divided the other. Here I muſt put my laſt Queſtion to him, and intreat him, and all the Scribblers of Libels againſt *France*, to tell me, once for all, upon what Foot we ought to regard that Crown? They generally alledge Two things againſt her. 1. That her Power muſt abſolutely be reduced; and 2. That this might eaſily be done. Theſe two Suppoſitions ſeem to them neceſſary to excite Hatred and Hope at the ſame time; but unhappily they incur a childiſh Contradiction; for, to prove the one, they ſay, *France* has formidable Forces, and inexhauſtible Funds; and, That if Care be not taken, ſhe will over-run *Europe*: To prove the other, they affirm, That *France* is at the laſt Gaſp, has but one Squeek for her Life, and that one Puſh more would effectually do her Buſineſs. This does not at all agree, and therefore is very eaſi-

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ly anſwer'd. If ſhe is ſo weak, why are you afraid of her? If ſhe is ſo ſtrong, how will you reduce her? Men of Senſe and Gravity, who do not exaggerate Matters, content themſelves with ſpeaking a Truth upon this Occaſion, to wit, That *France* is powerful enough to withſtand the greateſt Efforts of her Enemies, and yet is not ſtrong enough to attack the Liberties of *Europe*. If ſhe took care to extend herſelf ſome forty or fifty Years ago, it was becauſe *Paris* was a little too near her Frontier. Prince *Eugene* will confirm what I ſay, who having laid Siege to *Landrecy*, promis'd his Army to winter them in the Iſle of *France*, and that Major-General *Grovesteyn* had already beſpoke their Quarters. It is not, therefore, boundleſs Ambition in a Prince to endeavour to cover his Kingdom on the ſide it is moſt ſtreightn'd; but it is, to deſire to poſſeſs at the ſame time *Germany*, the *Netherlands*, *Hungary*, *Bohemia*, *Italy*, *Spain*, and the *Indies*.

We muſt therefore conclude, That a War, which, if ſucceſsful, would tend to Nothing but to double the Territories of the *Dutch*, and to quadruple thoſe of the Emperor; and which, if not ſucceſsful, might give *France* more Territories than ſhe deſires; is a War which it is high time to put an end to; and, That on the contrary, a Peace which leaves the Two Great Houſes in an exact *Equilibrium*, and reſtores a perfect Tranquillity to poor *Europe* torn in pieces by ſo many Calamities, can make Nobody groan, but the Diſturbers of the Publick Peace, and the Common Enemies of Mankind. I am, &c.

FINIS.